

INVESTIGATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

National Park Service

All or some of the information provided may be available to the public

Reporting Year: 2002	Park: Shenandoah NP
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Additional investigators or key field assistants (first name, last name, office phone, office email): No co-investigators	
Permit#: SHEN-2001-SCI-0029	
Park-assigned Study Id. #: SHEN-00273	
Project Title: AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ECOLOGY OF THE EASTERN BOX TURTLE (Terrapene c. carolina) ABOVE 607 METERS (2,000 FEET) WITHIN SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK	
Permit Start Date: May 01, 2001	Permit Expiration Date Nov 30, 2003
Study Start Date: May 01, 2001	Study End Date Nov 30, 2003
Study Status: Continuing	
Activity Type: Research	
Subject/Discipline: Herpetology (Amphibians / Reptiles)	
Objectives: To use radio telemetry to record data on the ecology(diet, behavior, movements, habitat use, and reproduction) of T. c. carolina inhabiting elevations greater than 607 meters (2,000 feet) within SNP. As there is no equivalent data available on this species it will form a baseline for further research within SNP and elsewhere.	
Findings and Status: Seven (3 male, 4 female) turtles were radio tagged at a study site ranging from ~2,500' to 3,000+' asl. One male appeared to be a transient and was removed from the study as it left the site and approached the western boundary of the park. All other study turtles appear to be residents, but their movements varied widely. Additional data on soil moisture will be collected in 2003 to determine its correlation (if any) to the differences in the home range sizes. No reproductive behavior was observed, however, one male and one female were found less than 1 meter apart just before they entered their overwintering sites. The population size appears to be small compared to lower elevation sites, but the turtles still find each other. All turtles were in their permanent overwintering sites by mid November and all remained within them as of 14 April 2003. Transmitters appear to be in good order, so these turtles will be studied for at least one more season of activity.	
For this study, were one or more specimens collected and removed from the park but not destroyed during analyses? No	
Funding provided this reporting year by NPS: 0	Funding provided this reporting year by other sources: 0
Fill out the following ONLY IF the National Park Service supported this project in this reporting year by providing money to a university or college	
Full name of college or university: n/a	Annual funding provided by NPS to university or college this reporting year: 0